

Accident of Guntur-Bound Nagarjuna Express

4131. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifteen persons were killed and 14 others seriously injured when the Guntur-Bound Nagarjuna Express rammed into an APSRTC bus at Mallavaram unmanned railway crossing;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total compensation paid to the persons died and injured; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the security on the unmanned railway crossing at Mallavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 16 bus passengers were killed and 7 injured when 7006 Inter-City Express dashed against a bus at unmanned level crossing between Bandarupalli and Nallapadu stations of Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway on 27.1.1997.

(b) and (c) The accident was inquired into by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that the accident occurred due to the failure on the part of the bus driver to take precautions as laid down under Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act, before negotiating the level crossing.

(d) No compensation is paid to the kin of the victims in case of unmanned level crossing accidents.

(e) The following safety arrangements exist at the unmanned level crossing in question to avert such accidents :—

(i) Warning Boards are provided on both the sides at unmanned level crossing to warn road users.

(ii) Whistle Boards are provided on both the sides alongside the track to enable the train driver to whistle, and in this case, the engine driver sounded the whistle/horn continuously while crossing the level crossing.

(iii) The level crossing is on a straight and its visibility is quite clear.

Installation of TV Transmitter/DD-2 Facilities, in Orissa

4132. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff for installation of TV transmitters

has not been provided on all the Doordarshan Kendra in Orissa particularly Banai Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Sundargarh have not been provided with DD-2 facilities; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be provided with these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Installation staff is deployed for installation of projects whenever required depending on the status of the project. Since the LPT at Banai in Orissa has been completed and commissioned, there is no need for deployment of installation staff for this project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whereas DD-2 service of Doordarshan is available throughout the country, including the entire state of Orissa, via Satellite by using an appropriate Dish Antenna System, terrestrially the service is being extended in a phased manner subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities. There is, however no approved scheme, at present, to extend this facility to Sundargarh.

[Translation]

Lackness of Passengers Amenities at Railway Station

4133. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any lackness of public conveniences at Jaunpur city, Shahganj and Azamgarh Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for providing public conveniences at the said stations; and

(c) the time by which Azamgarh Railway Station is likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As Azamgarh railway station is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled, there is no proposal for its modernisation at present.

[English]

Trains started from Various States to Bihar

4134. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new trains started from various States to Bihar since June, 1996; and

(b) the number of trains proposed to be introduced in future alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 9 Express (Single) trains including one pair of Rajdhani were introduced since June, 96 from various states to Bihar.

(b) As announced in the Budget Speech for 1997-98, 2 pairs of Express trains namely Delhi-Ranchi Bi-weekly Express and Surat Patna weekly Express will be introduced during 1997-98.

PCO Opened in Gujarat

4135. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new public call offices opened in Gujarat and the additional staff appointed correspondingly during 1995-96;

(b) whether the public call offices are being manned by physically handicapped persons;

(c) if so, the number of such appointments made in the State during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to open more public call offices in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1033 local and 1776 STD PCOs were opened in Gujarat during 1995-96. No additional staff has been appointed for this purpose.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some of them are manned by physically handicapped persons.

(c) Physically handicapped persons manning the PCOs are not the employees of Department of Telecom. They are the licencees of the PCOs and work on commission basis.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. 3985 such PCOs have been opened during the current financial year. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of District	PCOs Opened as on 31.1.97 (STD + Local)
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad (Gandhi Nagar)	1024
2.	Vadodara	1144
3.	Rajkot	389
4.	Surat	127
5.	Mehsana	119

1	2	3
6.	Nadiad	49
7.	Bhavnagar	145
8.	Bhuj	35
9.	Bharuch	15
10.	Bulsar Dang	388
11.	Panchmahal	111
12.	Sabarkantha	74
13.	Jam Nagar	129
14.	Junagarh	06
15.	Banaskantha	159
16.	Surendranagar	44
17.	Amreli	27
		3985

[Translation]

Setting up of New Railway Zones

4136. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new railway zones set up by the Government during the last year alongwith the divisions included therein;

(b) whether Kota division has been transferred from North-West Railway Zone to Western Railway Zone which having its headquarter in Mumbai;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is persistant demand of people of Rajasthan to transfer Kota division back to North-West Railway Zone which having its headquarter in Jaipur; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Government has decided to set up six new zones with headquarters as follows :

New Zones	Headquarters
East-Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
East-Central Railway	Hajipur
North-Central Railway	Allahabad
North-Western Railway	Jaipur
South-Western Railway	Bangalore
West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

The inaugural functions of all these zonal headquarter offices were held during last year.